



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

July 24, 2015

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

2015 FOURTH OF JULY 24-HOUR ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes a preliminary summary of firework-related emergency incidents, property loss, and the number of injuries that occurred on July 4, 2015. Also included is a summary of the community outreach efforts to mitigate the anticipated increase in emergency activity during the 2015 Fourth of July holiday.

FIREWORK-RELATED EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The following firework-related emergency activity took place during the 24-hour period that began at 8:00 a.m. on July 4, 2015, and concluded at 8:00 a.m. on July 5, 2015. Below is a comparison to the data collected during the Fourth of July 24-hour period for the year 2014.

<i>Number of Incidents</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Structure/Roof Fires	2	7
Miscellaneous Fires	4	10
Grass/Brush Fires	0	8
Total	6	25
<i>Types of Fireworks</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Illegal (ILL)	6	16
Undetermined (UND)	1	7
Safe and Sane (SAS)	0	2
Total	7	25
<i>Dollar/Average Loss/Injuries</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Structures/Contents	\$50,000.00	\$4,425,000.00
Miscellaneous Property	\$0.00	\$ 305,800.00
Total	\$50,000.00	\$4,730,800.00
<i>Acres Burned</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Grass/Brush	1.1 Acres	2.37 Acres
<i>Number of Injuries</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Injuries (Civilian)	2	4

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENDALE
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRVINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

During the 24-hour reporting period, the Department's Fire Command and Control Facility (FCCF) received 2,161 calls, of which 1,317 required resources to be dispatched. The other calls were duplicate calls, non-injury calls, questions regarding illegal fireworks, and questions regarding cities allowing "safe and sane" fireworks. The 2015 call volume increased by 7% when compared to 2014. Last year, FCCF received 2,016 calls, of which 1,182 calls required resources to be dispatched.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Special emphasis was placed on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show instead of displaying fireworks at home. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2015:

- Conducted the 24th Annual "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest." All elementary schools within the County were invited to participate and over 250 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on July 2, 2015, to announce and award prizes to the winners of the "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest." Representatives from our Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Grossman Burn Center, and the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department attended and encouraged the public to attend professional fireworks shows. The City of Los Angeles Police Department was also on hand to discuss the dangers of both legal and illegal fireworks.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations regarding the potential dangers of fireworks.
- Placed in operation the Professional Fireworks Show Directory Hotline at (888) 654-FIRE to provide information in English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- Posted public safety awareness information on the Department's website at www.fire.lacounty.gov. Information found on the website includes the cities permitting and not permitting the sale of "safe and sane" fireworks, a list of all professional fireworks shows within the County of Los Angeles, commonly asked questions and contact phone numbers.
- Provided firework safety awareness handouts to all fire stations for distribution to local businesses, law enforcement agencies, public schools, local community organizations, and recreation areas.
- Reviewed and approved public fireworks displays permits, provided fire/life safety inspections, and fire safety officer oversight for 45 public fireworks displays.
- Staffed the FCCF with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.

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CONCLUSION

The reported fires caused by fireworks were a result of sixteen (16) illegal fireworks, seven (7) undetermined fireworks, and two (2) safe and sane fireworks, an increase by eighteen (18) from the previous year. The dollar loss increased from \$50,000 in 2014 to \$4,730,000.00 in 2015. A mattress warehouse fire in the unincorporated Florence district accounted for \$4.4 million of this year's losses. There were four (4) reported injuries caused by fireworks this year.

The Department is compiling a more comprehensive report that covers a 30-day reporting period from June 17, 2015, to July 17, 2015. This 30-day report provides a more accurate reflection of actual trends in firework-related incidents than the figures in the 24-hour report. The 30-day report will be submitted in August 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180, or your staff may contact Assistant Fire Chief Phil Cocker, Fire Prevention Division, at (323) 890-4144.

DLO:cc

c: Sachi Hamai
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